

October 1, 2020

## Criminal Justice Reform and Forensics: The Importance of Evidence

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

In the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others, calls for widespread reform of America's criminal justice system have reached a deafening pitch. Understandably, much of the conversation has focused on policing. But the criminal justice system encompasses much more than just law enforcement. As the nation once again turns its attention to the systemic biases in the system and how to fix it, we will discuss how to improve the quality of one part of the system that must be objective: physical evidence in criminal cases.

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**Historically, evidence collection, chain of custody, and evidence storage in property rooms have been managed by law enforcement agencies. Should we rethink who oversees these often vast, high-risk, high-demand, low-reward enterprises? As we civilianize crime scene units, the teams on the ground that handle the evidence and document the scene, do we also need to change the structure and management of evidence handling upstream?**

**Join the Houston Forensic Science Center and The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School for an engaging and in-depth conversation among crime scene, evidence and crime lab experts on these and other questions, as we seek to improve a part of the process that impacts everyone from police to prosecutors to victims, the crime lab and defense. It's all about the evidence.**

**Confirmed speakers:**

**Dr. Peter Stout, CEO and President, Houston**

Contact Info:

Anna Gavin  
agavin@law.upenn.edu

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## Forensic Science Center

**Jerry Pena, Director of crime scene unit and multimedia section, Houston Forensic Science Center**

**Joseph Latta, Executive Director, International Association of Property and Evidence**

**Dr. Stacey Mitchell, Professor of Nursing, Texas A&M University and chair of the HFSC Board of Directors**

**Akilah Mance, General Counsel, Houston Forensic Science Center**

### **Moderator:**

**John Hollway, Executive Director, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School**

*This program has been approved for 2.0 substantive (Free) CLE credits for Pennsylvania and all jurisdictions allowing credits via reciprocity. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well and may require you to submit your credits directly to your CLE Board. For questions, please contact [cle@law.upenn.edu](mailto:cle@law.upenn.edu).*

*For Texas forensic practitioners, 2 continuing forensic credits recognized for Texas Forensic Science Commission licensing are available from this symposium.*

This webinar is open to the public and free of charge, it will be recorded. The cost of CLE and TFSC credits is covered by the Houston Forensic Science Center.